

ECON 100A – Intermediate Microeconomics, Syllabus

Tocoian, UCSD Spring 2020

**** Various aspects of the course may change.** Check the [Canvas course page](#) frequently for up-to-date information. ******

Dated: Monday, 3/30.

Course Information

- Lectures: **Mon/Wed, 5-6:20pm PST**, Zoom meeting ID/link: [359-221-590](#)
- **Discussion sessions** (will be **recorded** and **posted** on Canvas)
 - Fri, 4-4:50 pm – Zoom ID [931-159-274](#), starting in week 2
 - Fri, 5-5:50 pm – Zoom ID [863-190-607](#), starting in week 2
- **Study group sessions** (the *audio* will be **recorded** and **posted** on Canvas)
 - Thu, 12:30-1:50 pm – Zoom ID [704-336-677](#), starting in week 1
- **Quizzes/ exams** (will be **recorded** and **reviewed** internally to ensure academic integrity)
 - We will have 5 quizzes throughout the quarter, at the end of **weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10**.
 - We will hold these quizzes during **Friday's discussion session** times on: April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 5.
 - There will be a tech rehearsal quiz in the last 20-30 minutes of Wednesday's class in week 2 (April 8). There is no credit for this, but if by missing it you fail to discover a technical issue, it may prevent you from successfully taking Friday's "real" quiz.
 - during the **scheduled final exam time: Fri June 12, 7-9pm**
- **Office hours** (instructor and TAs): schedule TBD – Zoom ID [624-836-079](#)
- There will be an **additional set of office hours** held by two TAs who are shared across all the Econ 100 classes (ABC). Info to follow.

Teaching team:

- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian (UCSD PhD, 2011)
- Teaching Assistants:
 - Ha (Kimi) Vu (vha@ucsd.edu)
 - Adrian Wolanski (awolanski@ucsd.edu)
 - Jenny Zhu (jrzhu@ucsd.edu)
 - Study group leader: Minnie Guo (siguo@ucsd.edu)
 - Econ 100 (all sections) TAs: Shiyu Hu (shh190@ucsd.edu), Qijun Liu (gil194@ucsd.edu)

Course description:

- As the first class in the microeconomics sequence, Econ 100A is designed to teach you how to set up, solve and analyze optimization models and apply these mathematical models to the theory of the consumer (commodity demand, labor supply and consumption/savings decisions). Finally, we will examine the fundamentals of decision making under risk and uncertainty.
- Prerequisites: Econ 1 and one year of calculus (Math 10C, 20C, or 21C).

Webpage and Required Materials

- Class webpage: Canvas: <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/12958>
 - All relevant info will be posted here and all other resources will be linked through here.
- Textbook: Perloff, *Digital Inclusive Microeconomics: Theory & Applications W/calculus*, 9780134899572
 - The online portal is Redshelf (linked on Canvas). You are enrolled by default and will have to opt out by April 18 if you do not wish to pay for it.
 - I am still determining to what extent we will make use of the textbook/Redshelf. I will provide more information as soon as I am able.
- Additional resources are on (or linked through) the Canvas page. These include:
 - Mark Machina's *Math Handout*
 - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (IMVH)
 - = a set of video lectures recorded by Professors at UCSD. I will assign some of these for you to watch each week
 - Optional: Piazza
 - This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

Find our class page at: <https://piazza.com/ucsd/spring2020/econ100a/home>

Important note: Piazza has not been willing to formally agree to the Univ. of California's contractual terms about safeguarding student data privacy. (Their statement on data privacy compliance is here: <https://piazza.com/legal/ferpa>) If you have *any* concerns on this front, I encourage you to sign up under a pseudonym and with a non-identifying personal email address – perhaps even one that you open specifically for this purpose. If you do so, I recommend that you send me an email with the subject line "Piazza pseudonym – Econ 100" and the relevant information so that I can connect your Piazza alter-ego to your student information in my records. This way you can still receive extra credit if you are a helpful contributor to the discussion board.

Grade composition

My *current prediction* is that I will base your grade on the best 5 out of 6 tests: 5 graded quizzes + the final exam. Each retained score will account for 20% of your grade.

As detailed above, we will administer the quizzes at the end of weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and the final will be held during the originally scheduled time (Friday of finals week).

While I will do what I can to keep to the predicted assessments for this course, the evolving situation may make it necessary for me to make a change.

Grades will be curved if the average score is too low (there will be no curving *down*). I will apply the curve at the end of the quarter. For each exam individually you will be able to see approximately where you are in the distribution, as well as an *approximately*-corresponding letter grade.

More about the tests

We plan to administer all tests in Canvas (as “quizzes”) and to proctor them with Zoom, or maybe Loom. These programs use video and audio recording or other personal information capture for the purpose of facilitating the course and/or test environment. UC San Diego does not allow vendors to use this information for other purposes. Recordings will be deleted when no longer necessary. However, if cheating is suspected, the recording may become part of the student’s administrative disciplinary record.

Finally, I reserve the right to give an oral test if I feel it is necessary to uphold academic integrity.

Tests will be closed-book, closed-notes exam. You can use a couple of empty sheets of paper as scratch paper. You can have a basic (non-graphing) calculator nearby, although you are not likely to need it. We are currently planning to have you log into a Zoom meeting with your phone (or a tablet), and position that device in such a way that we can see you clearly, including your hands and work area. Part of the monitor should also be visible – so that we can see, for example, that there isn’t a book or device leaning against it. During the exam, I will randomly place students in a “breakout room” with a TA or Reader, who will ask you to move the phone slowly in order to show your monitor, your ID held up to your face, and then a 360-degree pan of the room.

Problem sets and videos:

There will be *weekly problem sets* posted on Canvas. During your discussion section, your TA will work through these problems, and we will also post the answer key. You will not turn in these problem sets and they will not be graded. However, it is extremely important that you do them. Solving problems is the only way to truly learn economics, and they will be a crucial component of studying well. I will also assign videos for you to watch, and possibly even set some mini-quizzes to test understanding and provide an immediate incentive to watch the assigned video.

Future opportunities:

- **100AH:** If you earn an A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100AH in the fall. Honors classes are capped at 20 students and you will get to know the faculty member well (important for getting informed letters of recommendation). These classes typically have you give a short presentation and write a short paper. Presenting and writing in the major are two valuable skills that are challenging for us to offer in large classes. I recommend you take advantage of the 100AH opportunity.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.